

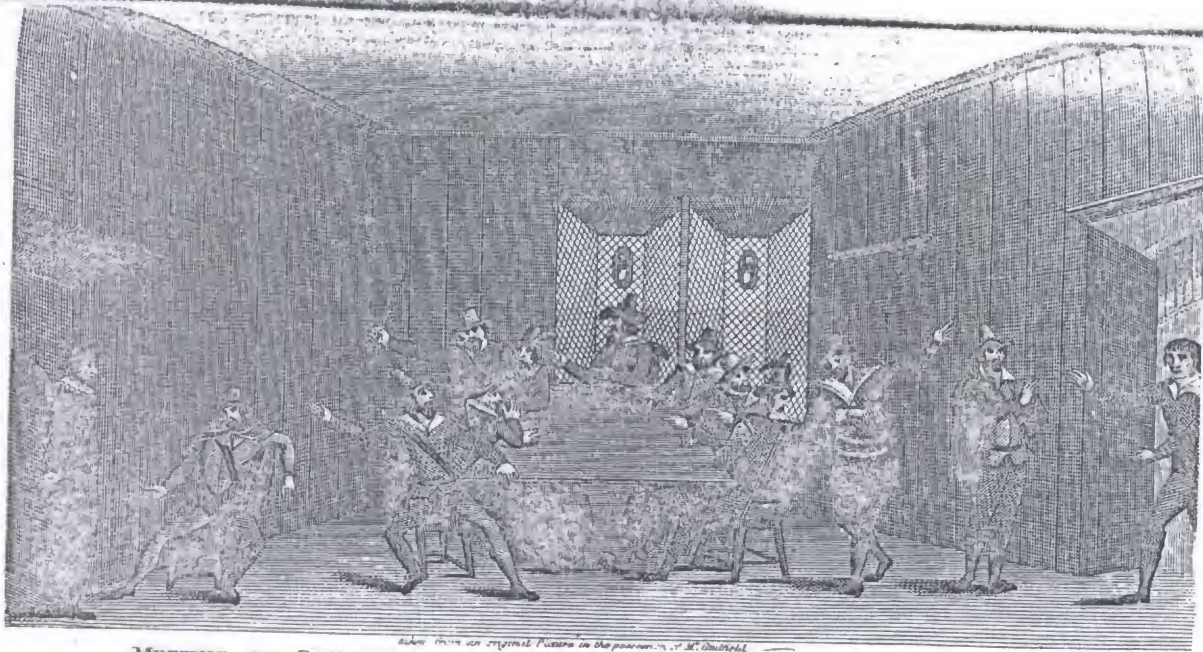
dant's counsel had scarce began to open their cause, when his sacred Majesty appeared greatly discomposed, and was so puzzled as they proceeded, that he had no patience to hear them out, but starting up in a passion, cried, "I'll hear na mair: ye're au knaves aleeke! Ye gi' each other the lee, and neither's i' the reecht."

C. C.

Account of the ever-memorable and Extraordinary Conspiracy, called the GUNPOWDER PLOT, with some Curious Particulars of those Wonderful Characters, who had planned, but happily failed in, the Execution of this surprising Scheme.

OF all the astonishing events in English history, that of the Gunpowder Plot, which took place in the reign of King James I. (1604-5), is scarcely to be paralleled; whether we consider the instruments, the means employed, or the end proposed, it is doubtless one of those infernal schemes which no one could suppose human nature, in its most depraved state, could either devise or execute. This memorable conspiracy contains at once a singular proof both of the strength and weakness of the human mind, its widest departure from morals, and most steady attachment to religious prejudices. The papists had expected great favour and indulgence upon the accession of James, the son of Mary Stuart; but when they found that he strictly executed the laws enacted against them, and persevered in all the vigorous measures of Elizabeth, surprise and rage stifled the soft dictates of humanity, and in the bale thoughts of revenge, they forgot the real duties of Christianity.

Robert Catesby, of Ashby, in the county of Leicesters, a gentleman of good property and estimation, and so fascinating in his manner as to possess every one who knew him with a most extravagant liking of his company, first mediated



MEETING of the GUNPOWDER PLOT CONSPIRATORS, GUY FAWKES, CATESBY, &c. &c. at a House which they had hired to consult & swear fidelity to each other at the back of St Clements Church, Strand, & which has lately been pulled down to make way for the new improvements.

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May 31st 1877 1511 Robinson Road
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Apr 18th 1877 Monday
Apr 8 - Falmouth, Cornwall

Dear Mr. Wainwright: The enclosed is an extract
from Mr. Rogers' New England Museum and
Extraordinary Magazine Vol I London 1803

I am right in the midst of you
There up and about last night but being
dressed by the period last to 1877

As I am as usual in the morning
I had been about to dress but
the sun would be down for
the night. I am making you know my

So this is the best it can be
about was dressed in time and
about the country of England & Scotland
I had been about to dress but
the sun would be down for
the night. I am making you know my

I am right in the midst of you
There up and about last night but being
dressed by the period last to 1877

tated a most surprising method of revenge, and communi-
cated his intentions to Thomas Piercy, a descendant of the
illustrious house of Northumberland, and his most particu-
lar and intimate friend. Piercy, in a fit of passion, pro-
posed assassinating the king, on which Cateby took the
opportunity of revealing to him a more secure and extensive
plan of treason. "In vain," cried he, "would you put an
end to the king's life: his children would succeed both to
his crown, and to his maxims of government. In vain
would you extinguish the whole royal family; the nobility,
the gentry, the parliament, are all infected with the same
heresy. To answer any good purpose, we must at one blow
destroy the king, the royal family, the lords, the com-
mons, and involve all our enemies in one common ruin.
Happily, they will be assembled on the first meeting of Par-
liament, and afford us an opportunity of a glorious re-
venge. A few of us may run a line below the hall in which
they meet, and clashing the very moment when the king
makes his speech to both houses, consign over to destruction
those determined foes to all piety and religion; while the
impious inhabitants, meditating perhaps new persecutions
against us, shall pass from flames above to flames below,
there for ever to endure torments due to their crimes. The
glorious catastrophe may easily be laid at the door of the
puritans." This speech had the desired effect, Piercy was
charmed with the project, and it was agreed between Ca-
teby and Piercy to intimate this scheme to a few other
chosen friends, particularly to John Wright, one of the
first persons to whom Cateby entrusted the secret, and to
Thomas Winter, a discontented Catholic, who had thoughts
of quitting England for ever, and had retired himself to his
brother's house, in the country, till such time as a con-
venient opportunity should offer for that purpose. He was
twice sent for by Cateby to come with all possible speed to
London.

I am right in the midst of you
There up and about last night but being
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London. Having obeyed the second invitation, Careby disclosed to him his Gunpowder scheme, into which Thomas Winter readily entered, and also drew into the conspiracy his brother Robert.

He immediately set off for Flanders, to sound the incitements of several persons towards such a project. Here he was recommended to Guy Fawkes, a gentleman and officer in the Spanish service, as a proper person to overlook the work; he being an approved soldier and skilful engineer. They embarked at Dunkirk and came to England together, soon after which Percy hired the house adjoining the house of Lords, where they first began the mine. Careby entered with such spirit into this business, that in the course of a few months he was obliged to call in some monied persons to carry it on with that spirit that was necessary. Having, with the advice and concurrence of Percy, Winter, Fawkes, &c. intimated the scheme to Sir Everard Digby, and afterwards to Francis Tresham, the first, in consequence of his persuasive manners, promised 1,500*l.* and the latter 200*l.* to purchase such materials as were wanting to carry the plot into execution. When they enlisted any new conspirator, in order to bind him to secrecy, they always, together with an oath, employed the communion, the most sacred rite of their religion. And it is remarkable that no one of these pious devotees ever entertained the least compunction with regard to the cruel massacre which they projected, of whatever was great or eminent in the nation. Some of them only were startled by the reflection, that of necessity many Catholics must be present as spectators or attendants on the king, and as having seats in the House of Peers; but Tresham, a Jesuit, and Garnet, superior of that order, in England, removed their scruples, and shewed them how the interests of religion required that the innocent should be sacrificed with the guilty.

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By astonishing perseverance they made considerable progress in their diabolical work: they soon pierced the wall, though three yards in thickness; but on approaching the other side, they were somewhat startled at hearing a noise, which they knew not how to account for. A discovery was now apprehended, and the conspirators prepared to defend themselves to the last extremity. Upon enquiry, they found that it came from the vault below the house of lords, that a magazine of coals had been kept there, and that as the coals were selling off, the vault would be let to the highest bidder. The opportunity was immediately seized, the place was hired by Percy, 36 barrels of gunpowder lodged in it, the whole covered up with fagots and billets, the doors of the cellar boldly flung open, and every body admitted, as if it contained nothing dangerous.

The house where the conspirators used to meet at was behind St. Clement's Church, without Temple-Bar, lately pulled down in order to make way for the new improvement on that spot. Here the oath was first administered by Careby, Percy, and John Wright; who, like Thomas Winter, had also allured his brother, Christopher Wright. The oath was as follows: "You shall swear by the blessed Trinity, and by the sacrament you now purpse to receive, never to disclose, directly or indirectly, by word or circumstance, the matter that shall be proposed to you to keep secret, nor desert from the execution thereof until the rest shall give you leave."—Careby having remarked that his servant, Thomas Bates, particularly noticed him, as if he suspected something of what he was about, called him to him, at his lodging in Puddle-Wharf, and in the presence of Thomas Winter, interrogated him with respect to what he thought they were about. Bates answered that he suspected it was some very dangerous business. Hereupon it was deemed necessary to admit Bates into their party, and

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injure his secrecy by an oath. The whole train of mischief was now completely laid ; for the parliament having been prorogued to the 5th of November, the conspirators had sufficient time to perfect their diabolical plan. James, the queen, and Prince Henry, were all expected to be present at the opening of Parliament. The Duke of York, on account of his tender age, they knew would be absent, and it was agreed that Piercy should seize or assassinate him. Thomas, Prince's Elizabeth, also a child, was at Lord Harrington's in Warwickshire ; but Sir Everard Digby, Rookwood, and Grant, engaged to assemble their friends, under the pretence of a hunting match, and after seizing that prince, to proclaim her queen.

The long wished-for time now drew near for carrying this infamous scheme into execution, and the vile agents waited with impatience for its arrival ; but under the providence of God, the royal family, lords, commons, and kingdom, were saved from destruction.

About ten days before the meeting of parliament, Lord Montague, son of Lord Morley, a catholic peer, received the following letter, delivered to his servant by an unknown hand :

" My Lord,

" Out of the love I bear to some of your friends, I have a care of your preservation. Therefore I would advise you, as you tender your life, to devise some excuse to shift off your attendance at this parliament. For God and man have concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. And think not slightly of this advertisement ; but retire yourself into your country, where you may expect the event in safety. For, though there be no appearance of any stir, yet I say, they will receive a terrible blow this parliament ; and yet they shall not

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see who hurts them. This counsel is not to be contemned, because it may do you good, and can do you no harm : for the danger is past, as soon as you have burned the letter. And I hope God will give you the grace to make good use of it ; unto whose holy protection I commend you."

Montague, alarmed at this ambiguous letter, and yet declined to think it some foolish scheme to frighten and mislead, carried it at midnight to Lord Salisbury, secretary of state : his Lordship having consulted with the Earl of Suffolk, the contents were afterwards communicated to the King, the Earls of Northampton, Worcester, and Nottingham. A terrible blow and yet the *author concealed* ; a danger so sudden and yet so great, these intimations seemed all to denote some contrivance by gunpowder, and it was thought advisable to inspect all the vaults below the houses of parliament. Accordingly, on the 4th of November, the Lord Chamberlain visited all the adjoining places. He observed, though seemingly with a slight inspection, the great piles of wood and faggots in the vault under the upper house, and cast his eye upon Fawkes, who stood in a dark corner, and said he was one of Piercy's servants. The Lord Chamberlain was struck with the appearance of a man in whose countenance all the signs of ferocious courage were strongly marked. It appeared a little extraordinary, that Piercy, who seldom resided in town, should have here such a quantity of fuel, and, upon comparing all circumstances, it was resolved to make a more thorough search. This resolution being taken, about midnight Sir Thomas Knevet, a justice of the peace, was sent with proper attendants to examine the cellar, under the pretext of searching for stolen goods. Fawkes had just put the finishing stroke to his preparations, and was coming out of the vault, when Knevet arrived on the spot. The daring conspirator

was instantly secured, and the faggots being removed, the barrels of gunpowder were laid open to view. Fawkes had a dark lantern in his hand, and the matches with every thing necessary for setting fire to the powder, were found in his pockets. The guilt of this determined villain was now apparent, who knowing that all denial would be in vain, avowed the dreadful design, at the same time expressing the utmost regret that he had lost the opportunity of firing the powder, and at once destroying both his enemies and himself. When examined before the council, he shewed not the least concern, but for the failure of his enterprise, and refused to discover his accomplices. He was then conveyed to the Tower, where though shewed and threatened with the rack, he still displayed the same intrepid firmness, and it was on account of the following circumstance, that he made any confession.

One Mr. Gilbert Pickering, a protestant of Tichmarsh-grove, in Northamptonshire, and who was in great esteem with King James, had a horse remarkable for swiftness, on which he used to hunt with the king. A little before the blow was to be given, Robert Keies, one of the conspirators, and brother-in-law to Pickering, borrowed this horse, and conveyed him to London upon the following bloody design. Fawkes, upon the day of the fatal blow, was appointed to retire to St. George's Fields, where this horse was to attend him to further his escape, as they made him believe; but it was otherwise contrived that Mr. Pickering, who was a noted puritan, should be murdered in his bed, and secretly conveyed away; and also that Fawkes, as soon as he came into St. George's Fields, should be there murdered, and so mangled, that he could not be known; whereupon, it was to be reported that the puritans had blown up the parliament-house, and as a corroboration, there was to have been Pickering's body near his own horse. Fawkes, on understanding this underhand scheme, freely discovered

what before the rack could not extort. Here it also be observed, that Robert Keies, having been a prisoner before this at his brother-in-law's house, suddenly sprung out his sword, and in merriment, made many of the gentlemen and ladies then in his company: it was then taken as a mere frolic; but when the treason was discovered, such a remembrance of his gestures thought he practised what he intended to do on the protestants, when the plot should take effect. Christopher Wright having been the first who heard of the apprehension of Fawkes, advised the conspirators, who with all their attendants did not exceed the number of 80, to an immediate and separate flight. Many might have escaped, but still maintaining hopes of success in their plan, they resorted to that place which was to have been their general rendezvous. Having been surrounded on every side, they boldly prepared for an attack; but some of their powder took fire and disabled them for defence. Some little time before this accident, Winter dreamt that "he saw steeples and churches stand awry; and within those churches strange and unknown faces;" and this explosion having scorched several of their faces, and much disfigured the countenances of Grant, Rockwood, &c. Winter imagined that the faces of his associates, thus disfigured, resembled those which he had seen in his dream. The people having now rushed in upon them, Cately and Piery were killed by a single shot, and Digby, Rockwood, Bates, &c. were taken prisoners, tried, and found guilty. Bates, when condemned, craved pardon, as being led into the scheme by his master; he was however executed Jan. 22, 1606. Wright and his brother were killed; Guy Fawkes, T. Winter, Ambrose Rockwood, and Robert Keies, were executed within the Old Palace Yard, Westminster, near the Parliament House, Jan. 31. Winter was very penitent. Digby, Garnet, &c. were likewise executed.